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October 11, 2004

Mr. Allan Mitchell
Manager-Power Plant Siting
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
300 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155



Re: Proposed 115/34.5 kV Akeley Substation Project

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Minnesota Power proposes to construct a new 115/34.5 kV electric substation to meet the growth needs of customers served by our system and that of Great River Energy's in the Akeley-Walker and surrounding area. We have elected to seek local project approval pursuant to MR 4400.5000 (Local Review of Proposed Facilities) by submitting a Building Permit Application for this project to Akeley Township.

The proposed substation site is located in Section 29, Township 131 North and Range 32 West in Akeley Township (Hubbard County) about 400 feet north of Minnesota Highway 34 and one mile west of the City of Akeley, Minnesota. It is near an existing Minnesota Power 115 kV transmission line (725 Line) and a Minnesota Power 34.5 kV distribution line (520 Feeder). The new Akeley Substation will be electrically connected to 725 Line and 520 Feeder. The overhead tie into 725 Line, which is located east of new substation, will span a distance of about 450 feet. The connection to 520 Feeder will be an underground extension from the new substation south for a distance of about 400 feet.

Construction of the proposed substation provides a solution to the present and future electric service requirements in Minnesota Power's western area. The proposed Akeley Substation will reliably meet the increased electric demand currently being experienced. Load growth in this area has averaged approximately four percent over the past several years.

A Building Permit Application was submitted on October 7, 2004 to Tom Beck, Clerk for Akeley Township. He can be contacted by telephone at (218) 652-4027.

If you require more information about this project or our application to Akeley Township, please contact me at 218-720-2509 or email me at lbubacz@mnpower.com.

Sincerely,

Larry Bubacz
Sr. Environmental Compliance Specialist